

Appl. No. 10/647,320

Reply to Official Action mailed on January 28, 2008

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13, 15-21 and 36-39 remain in the application. Claims 1-12, 14, 22, 31-35, and 40-43 are cancelled. Claims 13, 15, and 17 have been amended.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-12, previously withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), in order to expedite allowance of the present application.

Applicant reserves the right to file non-elected claims 1-12 in a divisional application.

Claim Objections

Claim 42 is objected to because of informalities.

Claim 42 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 13, 22, 31-32, 40 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lockwood et al. (US Patent 6,477,489).

Having regard to independent claim 13, Applicant has amended the claim to include the features of claim 14, deemed allowable by the examiner.

Claims 22, 31-32, 40 and 43 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 33-35 and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lockwood et al. (US Patent 6,477,489).

Claims 33-35 and 41-42 have been cancelled.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 14-21 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In particular, Applicant has amended independent claim 13 to include the features of claim 14. Furthermore, Applicant has cancelled dependent claim 14, and renumbered dependencies of claims 15 and 17 to be dependent on claim 13 instead of cancelled claim 14. No new subject matter has been added.

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for allowing claims 36-39.

Applicant submits that all of the claims currently of record are now in proper condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the instant amendment after mailing of the Final Office Action on January 28, 2008, since all of the amendments either cancel finally rejected claims or merely adopt the Examiner's suggestion to rewrite the otherwise allowable dependent claims to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. No new matter has been added and no further search or consideration is required.

Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1142.

Respectfully submitted,

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JF/ds